



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety Conference Scheduled

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Conference on Injury Prevention and Traffic Safety will be held November 16 and 17, 2004, at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

Nationally and in North Dakota, injuries are a leading cause of death. Many injuries can be prevented through use of safety devices such as seat belts, car seats, bike and motorcycle helmets, lifejackets and smoke detectors.

The theme of the conference is “Preventing Injuries Through Advocacy.” The conference will highlight several national and state speakers who used a personal tragedy or success story to prevent injuries to others. Featured speakers include:

- Nancy Amidei from the University of Washington School of Social Work has been involved in social policy from within and outside government. She is the author of “So You Want to Make A Difference.”
- John Moffat is a former Washington State patrol officer and head of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. He will explain how Washington State achieved 95-percent seat belt use.

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- Janette Fennell – After being locked in the trunk of her car, Janette worked with the auto industry and federal government to require trunk releases in vehicles. She is the founder and president of Kids and Cars, a non-profit organization that works to educate parents about the dangers of leaving children unattended in and around vehicles. She has appeared on national programs such as Good Morning America, Dateline, Oprah and the Today Show.
- Jack Walsh is the executive director of the Danny Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to crib and children's product safety. The Danny Foundation was created following the crib entanglement of 23-month-old Danny Lineweaver. Danny suffered permanent brain injury and died when he was 11 years old, after nine years of difficult therapy.
- Panel: Making a Difference – In Their Own Words – Cressy Lillenquist from Valley City will share the story of her husband's suicide and how she is working to educate others about depression and suicide. Anne Buchanan from Fargo will talk about her son who died from alcohol poisoning following binge drinking during Power Hour at a local bar. Jim Blotsky, a Fargo parent, took the time to buckle up his young children and his efforts paid off following a serious crash.

For more information, contact Carol Meidinger or Dawn Mayer at 701.328.4537. The conference agenda is available online at www.health.state.nd.us/InjuryPreventionConferenceFlyer.pdf.

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